

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## And TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Joint Meeting

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018  
9:15 a.m.

Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building  
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

**Commissioners present:** President Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President Dave S. Byers and Member Tracy A. Brown.

**Councilmembers present:** President John Basham, Vice President Bryan Metzger, David R. Williams, Roland Winger, Vicki Burch, Kevin Underwood and Kathy Vernon.

**Also present:** Attorney Matthew Salsbery, Auditor Robert Plantenga, Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett, and Recording Secretary John Thomas.

#### I. The Commissioners' meeting was called to order by President Murtaugh

Commissioner Byers moved for the Commissioners to consider the Termination and Release Agreement for the Romney Regional Sewer District, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

Commissioner Byers described how the Sustainability Study was recently refining. The projected increase in costs are related to insurance and the anticipated new public safety employees. There is a public safety income tax option available that could be used for police, fire, brick and mortar and possible court employees. It does require two of the three jurisdictions in the community to approve and he has reached out to the two mayors. A rate of 0.10% (with maximum of 0.25%) would generate \$1.9 million and would average \$35 per person.

Two major issues are being considered today: The Sustainability Analysis and the Fairgrounds Project. The sustainability analysis is driven by the additional employees and additional appropriations (which are mostly state mandated). Greg Guerrettaz, with Financial Solutions Group, distributed a summary of Department heads request for new employees in the next five years. There was discussion of the need for a new court and how it could possibly be funded by a Public Safety LOIT. The biggest financial challenge is personnel and how to fund it either by raising more revenues, so the general fund doesn't decrease or use more of EDIT for personnel.

The other potential investment needed is jail expansion and it will come with additional personnel and capital needs. Commissioner Brown briefed the Council on the status of the discussions: They have talked to an architect about general expansion options. The current jail bonds will be paid off in 2021 and there was discussion of possibly bonding for the expansion with a ground breaking in 2020. A Public Safety Income Tax could possibility be used for jail construction. The income tax in the County is low and the County hasn't used other available taxing options. The County is the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> largest county in the state and has the 73<sup>rd</sup> lowest rate. The County has been very financially conservative and could gradually move the income tax up a little at a time and still be among the lowest tax counties. Now is still the best time to do the fairgrounds and the jail projects, but the County needs to manage funds carefully and may want to start reviewing them monthly.

Mr. Guerrettaz summarized the 4 issues for today: 1) a roadmap for the number of personnel that may be needed in the future, 2) The Sustainability Analysis that shows a lot of financing tools available, 3) The revised Fairground financial analysis that was sent out last week. It now proposes pushes phase 3 construction into the future and possibly fund it with cash or possibly another bond. This reduces the bond costs from \$22m to \$18.5m (\$3.3m). 4) Today's proposed Amendment to Ordinance 2018-06-CL that allows the issuance of bonds in two or more series if needed with the second series, for Phase 3, not needed for possibly a couple years.

The YMCA, and other projects (e.g., fairgrounds cash and reserve, community corrections, and training) worth \$17m, are still included in the Sustainability analysis for EDIT funds. There was discussion of the several options for funding and scheduling the needed improvement and their potential impact on running the County Fair. From a Fair management standpoint construction of just Phase 1 and 2 is workable in the short term but not the long term. Commissioner Murtaugh proposed meeting with the two mayors to discuss the LOIT issue. The funds would be distribution to all jurisdictions like the EDIT distribution. There will be an impact on the general fund and the Council needs to management the needs and income to insure it is as minimal as possible.

**President Basham called the Council meeting back to order.**

**-Ordinance 2018-06-CL ~ Proposed Amendment #1**

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve **Amendment #1 to Ordinance 2018-06-CL** which adds the possibility to sell multiple series of bonds as presented, second by Councilmember Underwood. A voice vote was taken. The motion carried.

**-Ordinance 2018-06-CL ~ An ordinance of Tippecanoe County Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Bonds on Second Reading.**

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve **Ordinance 2018-06-CL**, an ordinance of Tippecanoe County Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Bonds on Second Reading as amended, second by Councilmember Underwood.

Auditor Bob Plantenga recorded the followed roll call vote:

Basham	Ayes
Metzger	Ayes
Burch	Ayes
Underwood	Ayes
Vernon	Ayes
Williams	Ayes
Winger	Ayes

Ordinance 2018-06-CL, as amended, passed unanimously on second reading.

## **II. Public Comment**

Councilmember Winger asked what else the bond money could be used for if there were savings in construction of the project. There was discussion that it could only be used for other non-operating project related improvements.

Consideration of Ordinance 2018-07 CL was advertised March 1<sup>st</sup> for second reading, but inadvertently omitted from the agenda. Attorney Salsbery felt it appropriate to open the public hearing for public comment.

- Councilmember Winger moved to delay the vote on the Ordinance until the next Council meeting, second by Vernon. The motion carried.
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There was consensus that the Budget/Revenue group (Councilmembers Williams, Metzger and Basham) still meet.

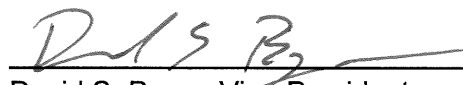
### III. ADJOURNMENT

- Councilmember winger moved to adjourn, second by Councilmember Burch. The Council meeting was adjourned by President Basham.
- Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the Commissioners meeting, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

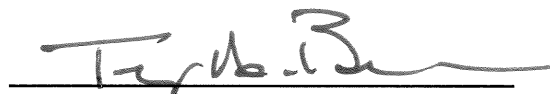
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE



Thomas P. Murtaugh, President



David S. Byers, Vice-President



Tracy A. Brown, Member

ATTEST:



Robert A Plantenga, Auditor 4/2/2018

Minutes prepared by John Thomas, Recording Secretary